

COWLITZ COUNTY

OFFICIAL LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

August 18, 2009 Primary



Published by: Cowlitz County Auditor, KRISTINA K. SWANSON

Participating Jurisdictions: City of Castle Rock, Kelso School District, and Emergency Medical Service District No. 1

PREAMBLE TO LOCAL VOTERS PAMPHLET

Dear Voters of Cowlitz County:

Welcome to the 2009 Cowlitz County Local Voters Pamphlet. This pamphlet is a great tool to assist you in making informed decisions regarding candidates and measures. The candidates selected to each port district, city, school district, and special purpose taxing district position will have a direct impact on the effectiveness of our local government and tax dollars.

The 2009 Primary is not a county-wide election. Only voters residing within the City of Castle Rock, the Kelso School District, and Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 will participate, roughly 17,000 voters. The two candidates with the highest number of votes cast in the Primary will move on to the November 3, 2009 General Election, with their names appearing in vote-getting order.

I encourage you to use this pamphlet to learn about the candidates and local issues that you will find on your ballot. Information about each candidate's beliefs, skills, and experiences has been provided in this pamphlet. In addition, the entire text of every local measure has been reproduced.

Kristina K. Swanson
Cowlitz County Auditor

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Obtaining an Official or Replacement Ballot

Cowlitz County is entirely vote by mail. Official Ballots will be available in the Elections Department beginning July 29, 2009. Official Ballots will be mailed Friday, July 31, 2009.

Replacement ballots. Contact the Elections Department if your ballot is damaged or lost. A replacement ballot may be mailed or picked up in person through Election Day, Tuesday, August 18, 2009. Please allow one week for delivery delays prior to requesting a replacement ballot.

Keep your voter information current. To receive your ballot in a timely manner, please keep the Elections Department informed of any changes to your name, physical address, and mailing address.

Away from home? If you are a student away at college, in the military, or you will be away from home during an election, notify the Elections Department and we will mail your ballot to your temporary address.

Ballots are NOT FORWARDED. Ballots are mailed to the address on record and are not forwarded. Notify the Elections Department of any address changes at least 30 days prior to an election.

CONTACT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

IN PERSON OR BY MAIL:

207 Fourth Avenue North
Room 107
Kelso, WA 98626

BY TELEPHONE:

(360) 577-3005

EMAIL:

elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections

Voting in Washington State

Qualifications

You may register and vote in elections in Washington State if you:

- * Reside in Washington;
- * Are a U.S. Citizen;
- * Are at least 18 years old on or before Election Day; and
- * Do not currently have your civil rights denied as a result of being convicted of a felony.

In Washington, you do not declare a political party membership when you register to vote.

Registration Deadlines

Keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must register to vote at least **30 days** before an election if you register by mail, online, or through the Motor Voter program. If you move within the State of Washington, you must change your address **30 days** prior to an election. You may register **in person** at the Cowlitz County Elections Department up to **8 days** before an election if you are not currently registered to vote in Washington State.

How to Register to Vote

You can register to vote online at www.vote.wa.gov or at the Cowlitz County Elections Department.

CURBSIDE BALLOT DROP BOXES

Six (6) curbside ballot drop boxes are available beginning July 29, 2009, 20 days prior to the Primary. The drop boxes are available 24 hours per day and close at 8:00 pm on Election Day. **No postage is required for ballots deposited in the curbside ballot drop boxes.**

Curbside ballot drop boxes are located at:

Longview Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St, near the Longview Post Office boxes;

Longview, on Broadway St, north of the Longview Post Office boxes;

Kelso, 3rd Ave, between Allen and Academy, near the Kelso Post Office boxes;

Woodland, city parking lot, Davidson and 2nd St, near the Utility Payment Drop box;

Castle Rock, Cowlitz St and 1st Ave SW, near Hattie's; and

Kalama, North 1st St, near the Kalama Post Office boxes.

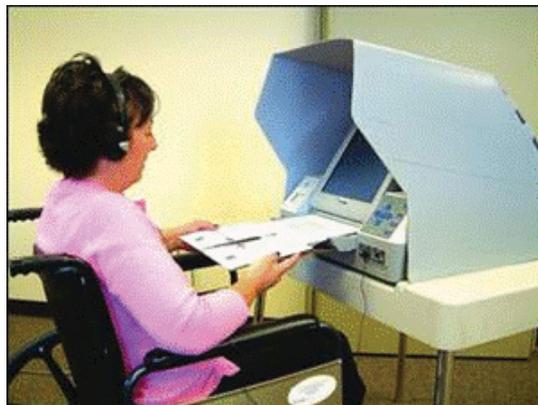
The curbside ballot drop boxes provide another convenient way to return your ballot.

DISABLED VOTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

AutoMARK ballot marking machines will be available Monday through Thursday, during regular business hours for the Primary, beginning Wednesday, July 29, through Election Day, August 18, until 8:00 pm, at the Cowlitz County Elections Department.

These machines provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way.

VOTERS SHOULD BRING THEIR OFFICIAL BALLOTING MATERIALS RECEIVED IN THE MAIL WITH THEM TO CAST THEIR BALLOT.



Election Officials will be available to provide instructions and assistance as needed.

COWLITZ COUNTY - SAMPLE BALLOT

PRIMARY, AUGUST 18, 2009

INSTRUCTIONS

How to Mark Your Ballot

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your selection.

- Use a black ink pen or #2 pencil.
- More than one vote for a candidate or ballot measure will be an overvote, and no votes for that candidate or ballot measure will be counted.

How to Correct Your Ballot

- Do not erase.
- If you make a mistake, draw a line through the entire selection. You then have the option of making another choice.

If your original ballot is destroyed or lost, you may request a replacement ballot by contacting the Cowlitz County Elections Department at: (360) 577-3005.

To vote for a person not on the ballot, write the name of the candidate on the line provided for that office, then completely fill in the oval next to the line.

Return Your Ballot

By Mail: Return your ballot by placing a first class stamp on the return envelope and drop it in the mail. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day, August 18, 2009.

In Person: Return your ballot in person, Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ELECTION DAY ONLY, at: 207 North 4th Ave., Room 107, Kelso, WA 98626.

By Ballot Drop Box: Six curbside ballot drop boxes will be available 24 hours per day prior to the Primary, beginning July 29 through August 18, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. Curbside ballot drop boxes REQUIRE NO POSTAGE and are located at:

Longview, Broadway St., north of the Longview Post Office boxes.

Longview, Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St., near the Longview Post Office boxes.

Kelso, 3rd Ave., between Allen and Academy, near the Kelso Post Office boxes.

Woodland, city parking lot, Davidson and 2nd St., near the Utility Payment Drop Box.

Castle Rock, Cowlitz St. and 1st Ave. SW, near Hattie's.

Kalama, North 1st St., near the Kalama Post Office boxes.

Assistance Available for Voters with Disabilities

AutoMARK ballot marking machines will be available for the Primary, beginning July 29 at the Cowlitz County Elections Department. These machines provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way. Voters should bring their balloting materials with them.

<p>LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices</p> <p>Council Position No. 1 City of Castle Rock FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ray Teter</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Howard Mason</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charles Jones</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> <hr/> <p>Council Position No. 2 City of Castle Rock FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mark Accimus</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Glenn Pingree</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Buck Savage</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposition No. 1 City of Castle Rock Public Safety Excess Levy</p> <p>The City Council of the City of Castle Rock adopted Resolution No. 2009-05, concerning a proposition to finance public safety services. This proposition would authorize the City to fund the maintenance and operation expenses of providing public safety (law enforcement) services to the citizens of Castle Rock by levying the following additional taxes on all taxable property within the City:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Collection Year</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Levy Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>\$2.08</td> <td>\$250,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All as provided in City Resolution No. 2009-05. Should this proposition be approved?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount	2010	\$2.08	\$250,000	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposition No. 1 City of Castle Rock</p> <p>Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2009 for collection in 2010 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$42,079 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL Nonpartisan Offices</p> <p>Director Position No. 2 Kelso School FOUR Year Term Vote for 1 (ONE)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gregory Salata</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joan Gisler Tolby</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jeff Hart</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No.1 Ten-Year Levy for Emergency Medical Services</p> <p>Shall Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical purposes for each of ten consecutive years?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount							
2010	\$2.08	\$250,000							

The Sample Ballot includes all measures and races presented within the county. Only races and measures you are entitled to vote upon will appear on your Official Ballot.

City of Castle Rock Council Members

The Castle Rock City Council has the authority to set the city's policies. The council, comprised of five council positions, is selected by ballot election by the citizens of Castle Rock. Council members serve for four years, and the terms are staggered.

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RAY TETER

As a city councilman, Ray Teter will work to make Castle Rock a better community for everyone. He grew up in Castle Rock and is now raising his own family in town. Ray has a degree in Business Administration from Washington State University and currently works as an accountant at Ragan and Brown CPA's. As a councilman, his goals for Castle Rock are to promote economic growth and improve the city's infrastructure. With Ray's knowledge of accounting, he will be a valuable asset in setting the city's budget. Ray is motivated and eager to serve the citizens of Castle Rock.



HOWARD MASON

Howard Mason 64.
Born and raised in Castle Rock.
Graduated Castle Rock High School 1963.
Served three years in United States Navy, Vietnam veteran.
Elected two terms to Castle Rock school board.
Served two years as Castle Rock Little League President.
Elected two terms to Castle Rock City Council.
Presently retired after working forty years for Weyerhaeuser.
Married, wife's name Jeannette. Children five. Grandchildren fourteen.
My agenda is to represent and help the people of the city to the best of my ability. I now have the time to be a better Council member than I was before.



CHARLES JONES

I'm Charles Jones, I hope to bring something new to the City of Castle Rock; I offer new ideas and a change of pace. I support Emergency Services and community growth and welcome the challenge of helping this city move forward in these troubled economic times. I want to be a part of something bigger than myself that helps and serves my neighbors. I believe this city can maintain and grow its current services as well as encourage and support growth of small businesses. I support a balanced budget foregoing needless spending and unnecessary taxation to our community.

City of Castle Rock Council Members

The Castle Rock City Council has the authority to set the city's policies. The council, comprised of five council positions, is selected by ballot election by the citizens of Castle Rock. Council members serve for four years, and the terms are staggered.

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MARK ACCIMUS

I love Castle Rock's size and charm, but our poor economic health is seen in the empty store fronts of downtown. We're told our city has no money, with increases to taxes and utilities inevitable. I offer alternatives. To start, Castle Rock must support business property owners. Smartly filling vacant retail spaces is a proven profitable city enterprise and essential for our economic recovery. Over the past year, working with our Chamber President, merchants, and resources from around our state, I have outlined a cost-effective, practical economic revitalization plan. Join me in preserving and promoting the charm of Castle Rock.



GLENN PINGREE

My name is Glenn Pingree and I have lived in the Castle Rock and surrounding area for more than 40 years. I was an elected councilman in 2002 and was one of the instrumental forces behind our River Trail, North Cowlitz Recreation, and the Lions Park restrooms. I received the support of our Police Department, Fire Department, and Educational Personnel as well as the Citizens and businesses of Castle Rock. I will appreciate your continued support.



BUCK SAVAGE

My name is Halley Savage, more commonly known as Buck Savage. I worked for Reynolds Metals Co. for 25 years as a Millwright and retired 11 years ago. I am an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoy the great outdoors and being close to the Cowlitz River.

I am running for a position on the Castle Rock City Council because I want to be a part of the city's growth and well-being.

Kelso School District Directors

The Kelso School District is governed by a five-member board of directors. The board's responsibilities include budget, policy development, classroom instruction, planning, and communications.

Directors are elected by the entire school district for their non-salaried four-year terms.

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GREGORY SALATA

Preparing our students for life beyond high school requires that we provide them with a safe, nurturing learning environment. High academic standards in fine arts and sciences, athletics, vocational training, and career guidance are all essential to the success of our students. I believe a quality education begins with quality leadership and an understanding of the social and financial needs of our district. As a parent of two students, and with over twenty years of managerial experience, my diverse educational experience and background have prepared me to make a positive contribution to the board, our students, schools and community.



JOAN GISLER TOLBY

As a mother of 7, I have advocated for children for 40 years, volunteering in the community, in leadership roles or wherever needed. I believe strongly in public education as a cornerstone to equality and foundation for a lifetime passion for learning. Strong curriculum, the arts, and sports are intertwined in helping provide quality education to equip our children with the life skills, critical thinking, and self confidence needed for future challenges. I will bring enthusiasm and passion to the board with the problem solving skills of diverse ideas, mutual respect, and willingness to work hard for the children.



JEFF HART

My wife Tina and I are proud to have our sons, Nick and Cooper, attend Kelso Schools. Especially since I'm a Kelso graduate myself.

I believe we must have confidence that our elected officials are spending our tax dollars in an efficient and effective manner.

We must provide students with a solid educational foundation including classroom teaching, athletics, fine and liberal arts, along with varied life experiences to groom productive community members.

I believe difficult financial times require creative thinking and fresh ideas. With this, I bring open mindedness and an analytical mindset that will help Kelso Schools to prosper.

City of Castle Rock Public Safety Excess Levy

Official Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
City of Castle Rock
Public Safety Excess Levy

The City Council of the City of Castle Rock adopted Resolution No. 2009-05, concerning a proposition to finance public safety services. This proposition would authorize the City to fund the maintenance and operation expenses of providing public safety (law enforcement) services to the citizens of Castle Rock by levying the following additional taxes on all taxable property within the City:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2010	\$2.08	\$250,000

All as provided in City Resolution No. 2009-05. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes _____

No _____

Explanatory Statement:

Due to adverse economic circumstances, the City of Castle Rock's operating budget is facing a shortfall. On a one-time basis the City is seeking voter approval for an excess levy to fully fund the Castle Rock Police Department. Should the levy not pass, it is possible that reductions in staff may need to be made.

Complete Text of Resolution:

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK HAS BY RESOLUTION DETERMINED TO ASK QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON, TO FUND BY SPECIAL EXCESS LEVY THE FURNISHING OF PUBLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK AND WILL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL EXCESS LEVY ON REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE HAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PUBLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK DURING THE YEAR 2010.

WHEREAS, the expected revenues coming to the General Fund of the City of Castle Rock during the year 2010 are inadequate to absorb the expenses of furnishing public safety (law enforcement) services to the citizens of Castle Rock without impairing the obligation of labor and other contracts, and at the same time provide the other essential services to the citizens which are supported by the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, no other funds are available to defray the costs and expenses of the operation and maintenance for these public safety services; and

WHEREAS, to adequately fund the furnishing of public safety services during the year 2010, the monies will have to come from a source other than the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to raise the required funds by an excess levy if approved by the voters of the City of Castle Rock at the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary, and, if passed, levied in 2009 for collection in 2010, now therefore,

City of Castle Rock
Public Safety Excess Levy...continued

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. That the following proposition be placed on the ballot of the election to be held August 18, 2009, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2009 for collection in 2010 of \$250,000 for the purpose of providing public safety (law enforcement) services to the citizens of Castle Rock? Based on 2008 property tax valuation this total assessment would produce a levy rate of approximately \$2.08 per \$1,000 of full assessed value

Yes_____

No_____

2. The City Clerk-Treasurer is authorized and directed to present a duplicate original of this Resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor, as supervisor of elections, by no later than May 26, 2009, which is eighty-four days prior to the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 State Primary; to request said officer to submit the above proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Castle Rock at an election to be called in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary Election, and to take all actions and do all things necessary to cause the ballot proposition described above to be submitted properly to the qualified electors of the city at the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Castle Rock and signed by the Mayor on this 11th day of May, 2009.

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

The Castle Rock property owners are asked to approve a 1 - year excess levy of \$2.08 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to assist in funding of Law Enforcement Services for the City of Castle Rock. The current law enforcement budget is over 50% of the city's general operating fund. If the levy is not passed, the city's law enforcement services will need to be decreased due to lack of available funding. The amount of the levy requested equates to a monthly cost of \$20.83 for property owners with a \$100,000 assessment. This is a small cost to preserve the high level of police protection that our community demands. Please vote 'Yes' on this excess levy to support our police services!

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Steven D. White and Calvin S. Smith

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

**City of Castle Rock
Library Levy**

Official Ballot Title:

Proposition No. 1
City of Castle Rock

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2009 for collection in 2010 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$42,079 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

YES _____

NO _____

Explanatory Statement:

The levy is needed to fund the Castle Rock library. Costs of operation of the library have been minimized. There is, however, a budget deficit for next year's operation.

Complete Text of Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK HAS, BY RESOLUTION DETERMINED TO ASK QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON, TO FUND BY SPECIAL EXCESS LEVY THE FURNISHING OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK AND WILL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL EXCISE LEVY ON REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE HAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CASTLE ROCK DURING THE YEAR 2010.

WHEREAS, the expected revenues coming to the General Fund of the City of Castle Rock during the year 2010 are inadequate to absorb the expenses of furnishing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock without impairing the obligation of labor and other contracts, and at the same time provide the other essential services to the citizens which are supported by the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, no other funds are available to defray the costs and expenses of the operation and maintenance of the library; and

WHEREAS, to adequately fund the furnishing of library services during the year 2010, the monies will have to come from a source other than General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to raise the required funds by an excess levy if approved by the voters of the City of Castle Rock at the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary, and, if passed, levied in 2009 for collection in 2010, now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. That the following proposition be placed on the ballot of the election to be held August 18, 2009, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City of Castle Rock, Washington, be authorized to levy an excess property tax in the year 2009 for collection in 2010 of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of full assessed value for a total assessment of \$42,079 for the purpose of providing public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock?

Yes _____

No _____

City of Castle Rock Library Levy...Continued

2. The City Clerk-Treasurer is authorized and directed to present a duplicate original of this Resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor, as supervisor of elections, by no later than May 26, 2009, which is eighty-four days prior to the Special Election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 State Primary; to request said officer to submit the above proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Castle Rock at an election to be called in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary Election, and to take all actions and do all things necessary to cause the ballot proposition described above to be submitted properly to the qualified electors of the city at the Special election held in conjunction with the August 18, 2009 Primary.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Castle Rock and signed by the Mayor on this 27th day of April, 2009.

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

Castle Rock property owners are asked to approve a one-year levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to fund a proposed library budget of \$42,079 for the year 2010. This levy would replace the levy amount that funded the 2008 library budget.

The levy, which would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$50, would enable the library to remain open 36 hours a week. It includes money for librarian and assistant librarian wages, utilities, supplies, some books, postage, telephone, insurance, and related operating costs. Voter approval would provide continued free public Internet access, as well as access to the local newspaper, income tax forms and other informational publications.

Castle Rock's library has over 18,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, videos, books on tape, and reference materials. Adults may take advantage of the opportunity for recreational and informational reading, and children can expand their reading horizons through the library's summer reading program. No additional fee is required for City tax payers to hold a library card and anyone outside the city limits can obtain one for a nominal fee.

Not only is Castle Rock's library vital to the community, but healthy libraries are important to new businesses when they consider moving into the area. Studies have shown that library access helps to educate voters, encourages employment, and discourages crime and substance abuse.

We urge voters to approve this levy.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Bud May and Marsha Quigley

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

**Emergency Medical Service District No. 1
Ten Year Levy for Emergency Medical Services**

Official Ballot Title:

COWLITZ COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1
TEN-YEAR LEVY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Shall Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No.1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical purposes for each of 10 consecutive years?

Explanatory Statement:

Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 (North Country EMS) seeks voter approval to impose an additional regular property tax levy in an amount equal to 50 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of property in the district in each year for 10 consecutive years. The tax revenue would be used only for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

Complete Text of Resolution:

Before the Board of County Commissioners of Cowlitz County, Washington

In the Matter of Directing the County Auditor	}	
to Submit to the Voters of Emergency Medical	}	Resolution No. 09 086
Service District No. 1 (North Country) a question	}	
concerning an Additional Regular Property Tax Levy	}	

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 86-229, December 1, 1986, establishing a Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 (EMSD), in a portion of Cowlitz County, as described in Exhibit A attached hereto, of which the Board, under RCW 36.32.480, is the governing body; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 84.52.069, EMSD No. 1 is authorized to impose an additional regular property tax of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation each year for ten consecutive years beginning in 2010, upon voter approval of such ten-year levy; and

WHEREAS, the question of authorizing such a ten-year levy, at the rate of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, is required to be submitted to the voters of EMSD No. 1 for their approval or rejection.

IT IS HEREBY MOVED, the Board of County Commissioners, as the governing body of EMSD No. 1, shall arrange with the Cowlitz County Auditor to submit the following question to the voters of EMSD No. 1 for the approval or rejection, at the primary election scheduled for August 18, 2009, conducted by mail ballot:

COWLITZ COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1
TEN-YEAR LEVY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Shall the Cowlitz County Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 50 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical purposes for each of ten consecutive years?

YES _____

NO _____

Emergency Medical Service District No. 1 Ten-Year Levy for Emergency Medical Services...continued

EXHIBIT "A"

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 4 East of the Willamette Meridian, and thence running South to the North Fork of the Lewis River and the Clark-Cowlitz County line, and thence Southwesterly along such River and County line to its intersection with the South line of Section 27, Township 6 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian, thence West to the Southwest corner of Section 28, Township 6 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian, thence North to the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 6 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian, thence East to the Northeast corner of Section 6, Township 6 North, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian and thence North to the Northwest corner of Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian, thence East to the Northeast corner of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian, thence North along the line common to Range 3 East, 4 East of the Willamette Meridian to the South Fork of the Toutle River, thence Easterly along said River to its intersection with the North line of Township 8 North, Range 4 East of the Willamette Meridian and thence Easterly along such line to the point of beginning.

STATEMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:

North Country Emergency Medical Service (NCEMS), operating from stations at Yacolt and Fargher Lake, is a local government entity comprised of Clark County EMS District No. 1, Cowlitz County EMS District No. 1, and the Town of Yacolt. North Country EMS has been the provider of ambulance service to northeast Clark County and southeast Cowlitz County area since 1976.

On August 18, 2009, voters in this area will vote on an Emergency Medical Service levy to continue the services of NCEMS. EMS districts do not have permanent funding sources, as do other special purpose districts, such as fire districts, cemetery districts, etc. EMS districts must periodically submit to the voters a request for continued funding. The current levy expires at the end of 2009.

The proposition on the August ballot will provide base funding for NCEMS beginning in 2010 and for the following 10 years, and will guarantee the continuance of this service.

The levy amount requested is the same 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation as past levies. This funding is required to continue the operation of NCEMS; it is not an increase or additional funding.

We urge continuing this EMS service by a Yes vote on August 18, 2009. Passage of the levy requires a 60 percent voter approval and requires that 40 percent of the voters in the last General Election cast their ballot. It is important that every voter in the district vote on this issue.

Voters Pamphlet Arguments Supporting Resolution Prepared By:

Ilene Black and Tom McDowell

STATEMENT AGAINST RESOLUTION:

No Committee was appointed by the jurisdiction to write a statement against this measure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are mail elections?

Mail elections are an alternative to polling place voting. Prior to each election a ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible registered voter to the address on record.

When are the ballots mailed to the voters?

Washington State law requires ballots be mailed to voters at least 18 days prior to an election.

I will be out of town when ballots are mailed. How do I make sure I get a ballot?

If you will return prior to Election Day, you may have time to vote and return your ballot when you get back. If you will not return prior to Election Day, you will need to provide the Cowlitz County Auditor with a temporary mailing address to send your ballot. If you will be unable to vote and return a regular absentee ballot you may request a Special Absentee Ballot up to 90 days before an election.

What do I do if my ballot doesn't arrive?

If Election Day is approaching and you have not received a ballot, contact the Elections Department for a replacement ballot. If you would like a replacement ballot to be mailed to you, do not wait until the day before the election to request one. If there is not enough time to receive a replacement ballot by mail, you may pick one up in person.

What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?

If your ballot is returned to the Cowlitz County Auditor with address information from the postal service, the Auditor may change your status as a voter from active to inactive and mail out a confirmation notice to all known addresses. If you do not respond to the notice or contact the Elections Department before two federal elections pass, your voter registration will be cancelled. It is very important to notify the Elections Department when you move.

What if I make a mistake while voting my ballot?

If you make a mistake on your ballot, draw a line through the entire candidate's name. You then have the option of making another choice.

When must the voted ballot be returned?

Mail ballots must be post-marked on or before Election Day. If the Auditor's Office receives a ballot after Election Day that was not post-marked on or before Election Day, the votes on the ballot will not be counted.

Can anyone find out how I've voted once I mail my ballot?

The procedures for processing mail ballots ensure that the secrecy is maintained for each voter's ballot. The secrecy envelopes containing the ballots are removed and separated from the outer envelopes so that a particular ballot cannot be tied back to an individual voter.

Can the public watch the mail ballot process?

Yes, the public may observe the processing of mail ballots. You may contact the Elections Department to arrange times to observe.

More questions?

Contact the Cowlitz County Elections Department:

207 North 4th Ave, Room 107
Kelso, WA 98626

(360) 577-3005